

colours of the naked parts of the head and neck, but it differs from all known Cassowaries in its plumage. It is absolutely adult, but has deep brown plumage, NOT black, and the feathers are spotted with pale fulvous or fawn-colour. He cannot describe it yet, as it may only be a colour-aberration of *C. casuarius violicollis*.

Mr. HUGH WHISTLER forwards the following communication :—

It has been commonly supposed that the Grey Tits of the North-west frontier of India belong to the race *Parus major intermedius* Zarudny, originally described in Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscow (no. 3), vol. iii. p. 789 (1890), from S.W. Transcaspia, and the distribution of this form is accordingly given in the second edition of the Fauna of B. I., Birds, vol. i. p. 76, as Afghanistan, Baluchistan, Chitral, E. Persia, and S.W. Transcaspia. I have had occasion recently to examine the Grey Tits of the Indian region, and, owing to the courtesy of Lord Rothschild and M. Tugarinov, have been able to examine topotypes of *P. m. intermedius* and a series of birds from E. Persia. Birds from S. Transcaspia and E. Persia agree (except that a pronounced green wash on the mantle is perhaps a characteristic of the latter area) in the characters of the tail, which at once separate them from all the Tits that I have examined from Afghanistan and Baluchistan. The penultimate tail-feather is grey with the white reduced to a minimum—namely, a slight white tip on the outer web, and no white wedge or at most a wedge 3 mm. long on the inner web. All specimens obtained in the N.W. Frontier Province have the penultimate tail-feather very largely white, the outer web is almost entirely white, the inner web has a terminal white wedge anything between 20–44 mm. in length. There are slight colour-differences as well, of which the most important is that in *intermedius* the lower parts are very white with little or no vinaceous tint.

Examination of the large series of Tits from N.W. India in the British Museum with a very large number of specimens in the collections of Dr. C. B. Ticehurst and myself show that the Tits of the N.W. Frontier hitherto treated as *P. m. intermedius* belong really to two forms. Those from Peshawar, Murdan, the Kuram valley, and Bannu are referable to *P. m. kaschmiriensis* (type-locality, Gilgit), which certainly breeds as far south as the Kurrum Valley and doubtless in the neighbouring areas of Afghanistan.

A series of birds collected by Dr. C. B. Ticehurst in the mountains of Ziarat, Baluchistan, prove, however, to be distinct, and these I propose to designate as:—

*Parus major ziaratensis*, subsp. nov.

Differs from its nearest ally, *P. m. kaschmiriensis*, in the slightly paler and bluer grey of the upper parts, the more conspicuous white edging to the tertiaries, and in its smaller stumper bill, which measures 11·5–12 mm. from the skull, as compared with 11·5 to 13 mm. in *kaschmiriensis*. The third tail-feather, counting from the outermost, is always tipped with white and to a larger extent than in *kaschmiriensis*, which, indeed, often lacks any white tip to that feather; while the fourth tail-feather is also sometimes tipped with white.

Five males measure: wing 73–77, tail 62·5–71 mm.; ♀, wing 71·5, tail 60 mm.

Type C. B. Ticehurst Coll., no. I.1629. ♂, 30 September 1919, Ziarat, 8500 feet, Baluchistan.

Specimens from Kandahar belong to this form.

Dr. C. B. TICEHURST communicated the following notes:—

I have long had in my collection two Sand-Plovers which have always puzzled me, since they are decidedly smaller than *Charadrius leschenaultii* and considerably larger than *Charadrius mongolus*. They were obtained by the late